

The Power of His Name

Acts 3:1-26

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It is normal for lives to be changed for the better when the church acts in the name of Jesus. But Acts 3 also gives us a look at what happens when normal people like you begin living exceptionally in the name of Jesus.

What expectations should you have on a normal day as a follower of Christ?

I. You can expect to meet people beyond your personal means or ability to help.

Acts 3:6 “But Peter said, ‘I have no silver and gold’...”

As you go about doing your normal thing, you will encounter people in need. And those needs will be beyond your ability to help. If you feel helpless—welcome to the club—you actually are.

The heart is the worship center of your life. What your heart wants shows what you value and what you value will lead to action. When the power of Jesus comes into your life, the heart gets transformed. The power to change becomes possible. When someone greater than the addiction is worshiped, the addiction can be faced and defeated.

II. You can expect to meet people not beyond His personal means to help.

Acts 3:6 “...but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!”

Isaiah 59:1 (NLT) “Listen! The Lord’s arm is not too weak to save you, nor is His ear too deaf to hear you call.”

We meet people in the most desperate circumstances, but we should not be afraid to look at the need. You will be intimidated and overwhelmed when you see the need apart from seeing God. But when you know God and you see Him before and behind the needs, you see with a different lens. And you act in His strength, not your own strength which is insufficient. Even as Peter and John looked at the man, they saw what they did not have but knew the character of Christ.

III. You can expect the changes God makes to meet the broader needs of life.

God’s people are to be about meeting practical needs of others in the name of Jesus. We must be men and women that clothe and feed but we must also be people who know that our power is not in our efforts. Change is needed at the heart level for lasting change.

Sometimes the change is more profound—more than the practical ability to walk. The power of His name redirected this man’s life and Jesus is the center of it.

Isaiah 35:5-6 “Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer...”

IV. You should expect the direction and destiny of your life and the life of the church to bring glory to God through the power of Jesus’ name.

- A. There is a literal physical and spiritual directional change for the individual—into community of faith and into God’s presence.

Acts 3:8 “And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.”

The power of Jesus name does that for us: He brings us into God’s presence. It brings about profound directional change—no longer crippled by life.

- B. The direction of the many is changed when glory is given to God in the name of Jesus.

Acts 3:9-10 “And all the people saw him walking and praising God, and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.”

When we recognize that we do not need to have all the answers, we just know the One who does and we point to Him and we act in His character, lives will be changed. This brings glory to God and that will usually draw a crowd.

If we are going to be like the early church, we must make much of Jesus. The power is not in a program. The power is in the person of Jesus Christ.

Peter and John intentionally saw the man that was beyond their means to help. They gave what they had—Jesus. Because they gave all they had in faith, they got to see the practical and spiritual needs of a man met in a miraculous way. It opened up an opportunity for gospel conversation. It gave them the ability to make little of themselves and much of Jesus. And when we do that, the power of His name will transform your life, the lives of people around you, and the world will not be able to prevent God’s glory from being seen.

Colossians 3:16-17 “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything **in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”